

Carmen Sylva Has Made Roumania Prosperous

Her Fertile Brain Schemes for the Benefit of Her People and Her Country.

Seldom has a woman, and certainly not a queen, enjoyed such popularity as Carmen Sylva, the empress-queen of Roumania. The queen is popular at home as a queen, and abroad as a poetess. Her books are read as eagerly throughout Europe as they are in the country where she lives, and in Roumania she has endeared herself to the people by the most melancholy face brightens at her name.

Any one who travels in the country must ask: "What is the secret of this immense popularity?" The answer is that although she is an Austrian by birth, and until she went to live in the country, did not know either its language or its history, she set herself to study both, and with such success that she speaks Roumanian like a native, and has become the best authority on most of the country's problems, and has founded all manner of institutions, and which the natural talents and resources of the country, almost dead when her husband began to reign, are now flourishing.

She is the best business woman in Europe, and it is due to her clever utilization of the resources of her country, and her own popularity as an author that little Roumania, formerly one of the most insignificant spots on the map of Europe, has become one of the best known and most prosperous. Her head is so full of ideas and new schemes that one catches one's self wondering if she is not an American, yet she has never been to America in her life.

One of her ideas was to use the Roumanians' talent for embroidery as a commercial asset for the country, which, by the time it had freed itself from the Turkish yoke, was almost bankrupt. Carmen Sylva opened a workroom, where the peasants could obtain materials for their embroidery and sell it at a fair living wage. The work was then sent abroad and the profits divided among the workers. She also opened shops where peasants can sell their work, which includes carpets, rugs, home-spun, chair coverings, tablecloths, clothing of all kinds and crochets. What is not sent to Germany and Austria is disposed of at home.

Hundreds of peasants have been able thereby to free their land from debt, to buy more, to rebuild their cottages and to educate their children. Thanks to their queen they have received the silk industry, which was entirely forgotten when the Turks ruled, or, rather, oppressed, Roumania. For Carmen Sylva opened a weaving school for peasant girls, gave them simple, but practical, looms which they can work at home, brought teachers to show them how to make good, wide silk and then, offered prizes for the best made stuffs and scattered these expert weavers in various parts of the country where they, in turn, teach their neighbors. She has attached to this school an agency for the sale of silk to the foreign factors at much better prices than the peasants could obtain in the country districts.

And Carmen Sylva has energy as well as ideas. Nobody in the kingdom works harder than the queen. By 9 o'clock she is at her desk, winter and summer, and many of the hundreds of letters received she answers herself. She controls all the institutions she has founded and takes a personal interest in all the inmates of her homes and orphanages. She knows exactly what is going on and frequently visits all these places, talking to everybody and finding out exactly what each person wants. In addition to all this work she has always some book in hand and often the supervision of a translation as well. The day is spent on her public work and her correspondence; the night on her literary work. She types all her correspondence herself and uses three machines—for the Roumanian, French and German languages, respectively. Besides this she reads an average one book a day and arranges receptions and private concerts in the palace several times a month. When she remembers that her



KING OF ROUMANIA AND HIS QUEEN, CARMEN SYLVA.

malesy is over sixty and far from robust in health, one can only ask, "How does she manage it?"

Many stories are told of her wonderful memory. She never forgets a face, and people say, rarely forgets a conversation. A distinguished foreign general not long ago visited the Roumanian court after a lapse of twenty years. At dinner her majesty turned to him with a smile and said: "Now, general, we will continue the argument we began twenty years ago about binetism. You said then that—" and here followed the principal points of their last conversation. "It was so—quite strange that the general had forgotten even the conversation. But, on returning home, he looked up his diary and there, sure enough, was an entry: Twenty years ago, with an account of his visit to the Roumanian court and the remark 'her majesty graciously talked to me about binetism, a subject we are both much interested in.'"

One day she was driving in the morning at Sinaia, where the court spends the summer. The horses were tired and the queen got out so that they might rest. There was a cottage nearby and she went near it to get some milk. She looked at the peasant woman for a moment and said:

"I remember you; you are Mrs. K. and I believe you married. And you are bringing milk to the monastery at Sinaia, is that right?"

to the people. The milkmaid, whom she had seen once, perhaps in passing, will always tell this story with pride. "The queen," she will say, "remembers what I looked like ten years ago."

Queen Carmen Sylva possesses, in other valuable qualities, and that is immense personal charm. She is not only queenly and gracious, but lovable as well. There is something in her smile which draws people to her and puts them at their ease as soon as she speaks. And yet, nobody would dream of being familiar with her. She is respected as well as admired and loved.

The royal palace at Bucharest is a comparatively small building, with the disadvantage of being quite on the street. The queen's apartments are in the left wing and at the back there is a two-story garden, where she gives parties in the summer. But her favorite dwelling is at Sinaia, in the Carpathian mountains. This is Carmen Sylva's second home. Twenty years ago this beautiful spot was almost uninhabited. Now it is the most fashionable summer resort in the kingdom. Everybody who is anybody has a villa at Sinaia and the hotels are crowded with Roumanian and foreign visitors from the spring to the coming of the autumnal frosts.

Many years ago King Carol, when queen's son, began an excursion into the mountains and was enchanted with the beauty of this spot, where, nestled among pine forests, was a very old monastery, ripe for need of repair. The queen also thought it the most beautiful part of the country and she decided to build a summer palace nearby, a little higher up the hill than the monastery. But there was a great deal to be done. Not only had the earth to be built and finished, but it was necessary to make roads and extend the railway line to the valley. This was a task, even for the king, and while it was going on the court spent the summers in the mountains, which was tedious. The summer in which the king and queen were there the air was terribly used by the monks, and many times the king and queen were annoyed by the smoke of the stoves, which was often very thick. The king and queen were very annoyed by the smoke of the stoves, which was often very thick. The king and queen were very annoyed by the smoke of the stoves, which was often very thick.

The queen's villa at Sinaia is a beautiful building, with a large garden and a view of the mountains. It is a very comfortable and modern house, and the queen spends much of her time there. The king also spends much of his time at Sinaia, and the two of them enjoy the beauty of the mountains and the fresh air. The queen's villa is a very popular place, and many people come to see it. The king and queen are very fond of Sinaia, and it is a very pleasant surprise that they have chosen to build their summer palace there.

Works Out Practical Details and Supervises Them Into Operation.

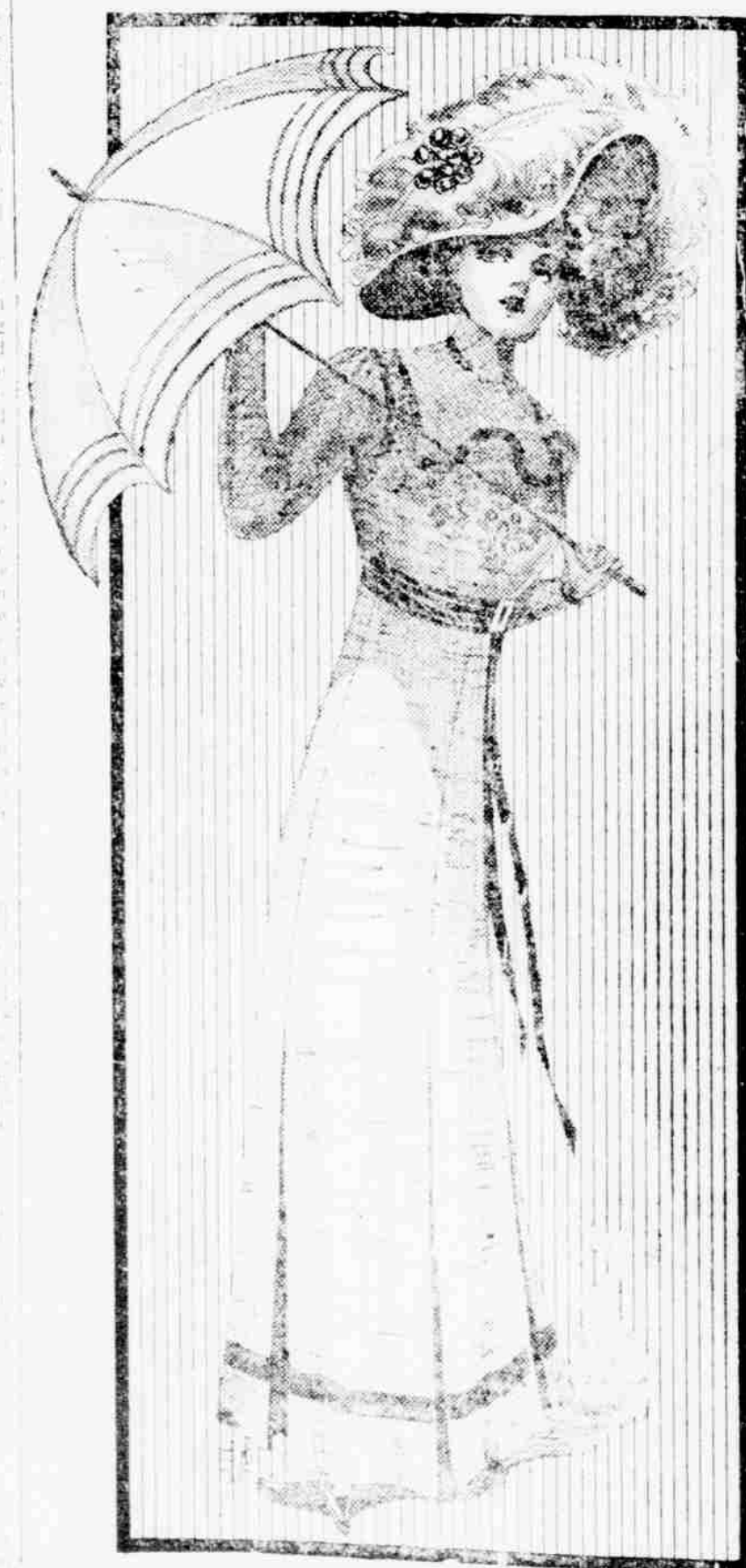
their children, who live in a villa near the castle. The chief note of the royal residence is cultured simplicity and refinement. The ladies of the court, who have been attached to her majesty since her marriage, and have, for the most part, grown old with her, are quiet and fond of reading. The king, in spite of his age, is fond of playing billiards, in which, he says, he forgets the cares of state. He has the deepest admiration for the queen and her many enterprises for his subjects' well-being. Their great grief was the loss many years ago of their only child, who died when a young girl. They say neither of them has ever recovered from the shock.

Queen Carmen Sylva is a great admirer of American energy and enterprise, but she admired Queen Victoria more than any other woman as being the hardest working and most innocent person she ever knew. For Tolstoi, as a man and as a poet and writer, she has the greatest veneration and admiration. She is a great reader and knows English, French, German and Roumanian literature thoroughly. Her majesty always wears the Roumanian headdress, which consists of a fine white veil hanging from the top of the head almost to the waist and passing under the chin, like a nun's veil. On many occasions she appears in complete national costume—an attention to the patriotism of her subjects which pleases them greatly. By keeping the court as simple as possible, Queen Carmen Sylva has a ways to render its presence in the capital as harmless as possible. She has a theory that courts always corrupt those whom business or pleasure takes them there and for that reason she shrinks from all unnecessary pomp and ceremony. Yet here is the most hospitable court in Europe, where all who have contributed toward the world's culture and well-being are sure of a warm welcome.

One spring, for some reason, old Eli was going round town with the face of dissatisfaction, and, when questioned, poured forth his valuable tale of woe thus: "Marse Geo'ge he come to me last fall an' he say, 'Eli, dis gwine ter be a hard winter, so yo' be keerful, an' save yo' wages fas' an' tight.' An' I b'lieve Marse Geo'ge, yas, sah, I b'lieve him, an' I save an I save, an' when de winter come it aint got no hardship, an' dere was I wid all dat money jes' frown on mah hands!'"

Looking out of her window Miss Tabitha, far past middle age, saw her young nephew walking on his hands while his feet dangled ungracefully. "Johnny!" she called, opening the window and leaning far out. "You Johnny! Behave yourself. I wouldn't do that!" Resuming his natural position Johnny looked up at her and made this impudent reply. "Wouldn't? By Jinks, you couldn't."

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Regular	15.00,	Sale Price	10.50
Regular	18.00,	Sale Price	13.50
Regular	19.50,	Sale Price	14.50
Regular	22.50,	Sale Price	15.50

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